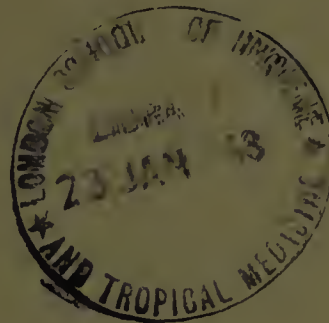


4421(5)

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

GEORGE CUST, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

AND

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1965

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P U B L I C   H E A L T H   C O M M I T T E E

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor A.G. Cutmore (Chairman)  
Councillor A.W. Drury (vice-Chairman)  
Councillor A. Angelow  
Councillor N.J.D. Hodges  
Councillor J. Hoey  
Councillor B.E. King  
Councillor R. Palmer  
Councillor R.V. Sparrow  
Councillor G. Vancliffe  
Councillor A.G. Wray

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

George Cust, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

David J. Graham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,  
Chief Public Health Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent.

W.A. Beere, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,  
Deputy Public Health Inspector.

W.S. Biggins, M.A.P.H.I., M.A.Inst.P.C., (Resigned July 1965)  
Additional Public Health Inspector.

F.V. Jennings,  
Student Public Health Inspector.

Mrs. D. Day,  
Chief Clerk.

Miss M. Oakley,  
Junior Clerk.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Divisional Health Office,  
Bleak House,  
Catherine Street,  
St. Albans.

July, 1966.

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the St. Albans Rural District for 1965.

I am pleased to report again, that the general picture of the health of the people of the District is very good. There was a slight rise in the death rate in 1965 compared with the very low figure of the previous year. The major causes of death are typical of those in any western urbanised society, namely the degenerative diseases, cardio-vascular disease and the cancers. 70% of all the deaths in the District were in people aged over 65. The birth rate fell again in 1965 and in fact at 15.3 per thousand, this was the lowest birth rate since 1955.

The Council took one very important decision during the year, to join with the other district councils in the St. Albans Health Division to form a Divisional Health and Welfare Executive, which would be responsible for the personal health services in the area delegated to them from the County Council. I hope this will give local representatives a say and an interest in the personal health services in the area. I have this year altered the form of the Annual Report, largely because of the formation of the Divisional Health and Welfare Executive since the Divisional Medical Officer will be making a report on personal health services in the Division to the Divisional Executive, I have not therefore included in this Annual Report the report on the Divisional Health Services as in previous years.

My thanks are due to Mr. Jewell, the Chief Clerk, for compiling most of the statistics, Mrs. Tavener who typed the whole of this report, and to Mrs. Small for its printing.

There is a well known saying "That Public Health is People", because without people there would be no need for public health services, and without people we could not run public health services. I would like to say thank you to the many people without whose close co-operation it would be impossible to run our health services, to my medical colleagues in general practice and the hospitals; the staff of the Health Department, the doctors, Miss Seymour and the nursing staff, Mrs. Taylor, and the home helps, Mr. Jewell and the office staff, Mr. Graham and the public health inspectors, and to the public of the St. Albans Rural District.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen for all the consideration you have given me and the members of my staff during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE CUST  
Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	42,130
Area (in acres)	32,084
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	10,850
Shops with Living Accommodation	77
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	57
Rateable Value	£1,877,544

Vital Statistics

Live Births -	
Number	646
Rate per 1000 population	15.3
Illegitimate Live Births -	
Number	25
Rate % of total live births	3.9
Stillbirths -	
Number	8
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	12.2
Total live and stillbirths -	654
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	
Number	9
Rate per 1000 live births	13.9
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	13.9
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	12.9
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	40.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	7
Rate per 1000 total live births	10.8
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate -	
Number	7
Rate per 1000 total live births	10.8

# Peri-Natal Mortality Rate

Number (stillbirths and deaths under one week)	15
Rate per 1000 total live and stillbirths	22.9

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) NIL

## Deaths

Number of Deaths	518
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population	12.3

In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas and the country as a whole, the Registrar General has supplied "Comparability Factors" to be applied to these two rates so that comparisons can be made.

Applying these two factors to the Rural District, the following results are given:-

Crude Birth Rate	Comparable Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Comparable Death Rate
15.3	13.9	12.3	9.0

## Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Peri-Natal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>
1947	9.2	16.5	54.0		
1948	7.0	14.5	18.1		
1949	8.2	14.8	22.2		
1950	7.7	13.2	22.5		
1951	7.7	13.3	29.1		
1952	6.8	12.8	8.1		
1953	18.1	14.5	28.6		
1954	17.7	14.5	16.6		
1955	19.1	15.2	15.3		
1956	19.3	14.4	19.8		
1957	16.0	15.3	17.8		
1958	13.6	17.3	18.5		
1959	12.1	17.7	23.5		
1960	12.4	17.6	22.9		
1961	12.3	17.4	16.5	19.2	35.4
1962	12.7	18.7	20.4	9.5	21.6
1963	13.6	18.2	8.2	12.2	14.9
1964	10.7	17.9	9.5	6.7	10.8
1965	12.3	15.3	13.9	12.2	22.9

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	1	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	15
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	17
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	50
18. Coronary disease, angina	37	32
19. Hypertension	2	6
20. Other heart disease	17	28
21. Other circulatory disease	8	13
22. Influenza	1	-
23. Pneumonia	31	48
24. Bronchitis	7	13
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	5
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	-	5
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	43
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	-
34. All other accidents	3	6
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	<hr/>	
Totals	216	302
	<hr/>	

## Vital Statistics, 1965 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

### Births

*Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	18.0
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	15.7

\* First year since 1955 that births have fallen compared with the previous year.

### Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.5
*Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	19.0
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.25
Neo-Natal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	13.0
Peri-Natal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	26.9

\* Lowest ever recorded in this country.

This table is included to enable comparison to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

### Number of Deaths and Death Rates from Tuberculosis and Cancer, 1965.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1965 are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Respiratory						
Tuberculosis	1,500	508	2,008	65	21	42
Other Tuberculosis	141	133	274	6	5	6
Cancer of Lung						
and Bronchus	22,231	4,168	26,399	957	170	553
Other Cancer	35,233	44,706	79,939	1,517	1,822	1,674

## COMMENTARY ON VITAL STATISTICS - ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

### BIRTHS

There were 646 births in the Rural District in 1965, compared with 739 in 1964. The birth rate in 1965 was 15.3 compared with 17.9 in 1964. This is the lowest birth rate since 1957.

### STILLBIRTHS

There were 8 stillbirths in 1965, compared with 5 in 1964, giving a stillbirth rate of 12.2 per 1000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 6.7 in 1964.

### INFANT DEATHS

9 children died under the age of 1 compared with 7 in 1964, an increase of 2. This makes the infant mortality rate in 1965, 13.9 compared with 9.5 in 1964. The causes of these deaths are shown in the Table set out below.

Age at Death

Cause of Death	1 wk.	2 wks.	3 wks.	4 wks.	TOTAL under 1 mth.	Under 3 mths.	Under 6 mths.	Under 9 mths.	Under 12 mths.	TOTAL under 1 year
Haemolytic Disease	1				1					1
Aspiration of Vomit					1					1
Congenital Malformations	1				1			1		2
Prematurity	4				4					4
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1				1					1
Total	7				7	1		1		9

Breaking down the number of children who died under the age of 1 year, 7 children died in the first week of life compared with 3 in 1964, giving an early neo-natal mortality rate of 10.8, compared with 4.1 in 1964. In 1965, 7 children died under the age of 1 month, compared with 4 children in 1964, giving a neo-natal mortality rate of 10.8 (5.4 in 1964).

There were 2 deaths of children between 1 month and 1 year old in 1965, compared with 3 deaths of children in this age group in 1964. Considering together the stillbirths, those children who died in the first week of life (that is, those children whose death resulted as a complication of pregnancy and childbirth), the peri-natal mortality rate was 22.9 compared with 10.8 in 1964. Although all of these rates vary from the previous year, all these differences are really very small and all could be due to chance variations. The national figures for England and Wales are given on page 6 for comparison.

## DEATHS

There were 518 deaths in the district in 1965, compared with 441 in 1964. This gives a death rate of 12.3 compared with a death rate of 10.7 in 1964. When these figures are corrected, using the 'comparability factor' provided by the Registrar General (which takes into account the differences in age, composition of the population, difference in sex incidence in the population, and makes allowances for the deaths occurring in the mental hospitals in the district) the death rate treated in this way becomes 9.0 in 1965 and 7.8 in 1964. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 11.5.

There is nothing special about the causes of death in this area after one has made allowances for the deaths in the large mental hospitals in the district. Diseases of the heart and arteries account for most of the deaths, with cancers being the second cause of death.

Coronary Artery Disease This was the heart disease causing the most deaths. 37 men and 32 women died of this disease. The ages at which they died can be seen in the Table set out below. The present stage of medical research would lead us to believe that this is one of the preventable diseases. This disease causes death more commonly, and at a younger age, in men rather than women, in those who overeat and are obese, in those who take insufficient exercise, and are subjected to mental stresses and strains, than in those who are thin, take a reasonable amount of physical exercise, are non-smokers, and who deal better with their mental stresses and strains.

### Age of Death

25-		35-		45-		55-		65-		75+		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
-	-	-	-	3	-	13	3	12	8	9	21	37	32

Cancer 76 people died of cancers, 32 men and 44 women. Lung cancer was the most common cancer. The Table set out below and compiled from local records shows the ages of death, and the sites of the cancers in these people.

		Under 25	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75+	Total
Stomach	Men	-	-	-	-	3	-	5
	Women	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Lung	Men	-	1	-	3	7	2	21
	Women	-	-	1	2	5	-	
Breast	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
	Women	-	2	2	5	3	3	
Uterus	Women	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Bladder	Men	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rectum	Men	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
	Women	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Oesophagus	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Women	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Prostate	Men	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pancreas	Men	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
	Women	-	1	-	1	1	1	
Gall Bladder	Men	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Ovary	Women	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Brain	Men	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Colon	Men	-	-	1	-	3	-	5
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Larynx	Men	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	Women	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Others	Men	-	-	-	3	1	-	7
	Women	-	-	-	2	1	-	

### Lung Cancer

This was again the most common cause of death from the cancers. The association of this disease with cigarette smoking is now well known.

## Section B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Bricket Wood - The Scout Hut,  
Black Boy Wood.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Vaccination & Immunisation

3rd Wednesdays - 9.30 - 11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion.

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2.30 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Harpenden - 40 Luton Road,  
(Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic

Mondays - 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (By appointment)

Vaccination & Immunisation

2nd and 4th Wednesday in month - 9.30 a.m.  
(Dr. attends) 12 noon.

Speech Therapy

Thursdays - 9.30 - 12 noon; 2 - 4 p.m.  
(By appointment)

Infant Welfare

Wednesdays - 1.45 - 4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Dental

Tuesdays - 9.30 - 12 noon; 2 - 4 p.m.  
Fridays - 9.30 - 12 noon.  
(By appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School,  
Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Thursdays - 1.45 - 4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Speech Therapy

Wednesdays 9.30 - 12 noon.

Harpenden - Southdown,  
Methodist Church Hall.

Infant Welfare

Fridays - 2 - 4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)

London Colney - Primary School,  
Alexander Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation

Fridays - 9.30 - 12 noon.  
(Dr. attends 2nd & 4th)

Infant Welfare

Thursdays - 1.45 - 4.30 p.m.  
(Dr. attends 1st & 3rd)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Mondays - 1.30 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Centre,  
Mandeville Drive.

Telephone: 50471.

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Thursdays - 2 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Dental

Wednesdays - 9.30 - 12 noon: 2 - 4 p.m.  
(By appointment)

Immunisation & Vaccination

4th Thursday - 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Centre,  
High Oaks.

Telephone: 56994.

Infant Welfare

Wednesdays - 1.30 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends 1st and 3rd)

Speech Therapy

Mondays - 2 - 4 p.m.

Dental

Monday p.m. (weekly)

Thursday - a.m. and p.m. (weekly)

Friday - a.m. and p.m. (weekly)  
(By appointment)

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre,  
Civic Centre.

Telephone: 59211.

Immunisation & Vaccination  
and Minor Ailments  
Dental

Mondays - 9 - 12 noon.

(Dr. attends 9.30 a.m.)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
and Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m.: 2-5 p.m.

Saturdays - 9.30 - 12 noon (alternate)

Monday - 9 - 12 noon: 2 - 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday - 1st, 3rd & 5th 9 - 12 noon:  
2 - 4.30 p.m.

Thursday - 9.30 - 12 noon: 2 - 4.30 p.m.

Friday - 2 - 4.30 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday - 9.30 - 12.30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 9.30-12.30:

Tuesday 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Wednesday - 2. - 4 p.m.

Orthoptic

Ophthalmic  
Speech

Antenatal

St. Albans - Principal Health Centre (continued)

Infant Welfare	Tuesday and Friday - 1.30 - 4 p.m. (Dr. attends Friday) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.
Audiometrician	1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays - 9.30 - 12 noon 2 - 4.30 p.m. 1st Friday - 9.30 - 12 noon. (By appointment)
Audiology	2nd and 4th Wednesdays - 9.30 - 12 noon: 2 - 4 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Centre,  
Cell Barnes Lane.  
Telephone: 53025.

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2 - 4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st and 3rd Thursdays - 9.30 - 12 noon. (By appointment)
Speech	Fridays - 2 - 4 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Centre,  
Marshalswick Estate.  
Telephone: 57041.

Infant Welfare	Monday and Friday - 2 - 4.30 p.m. (Dr. attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st and 3rd Tuesday - 2 - 4 p.m. (By appointment)
Speech	Thursdays - 10 - 12 noon. (By appointment)
Antenatal	Thursdays - 2 - 4 p.m.
Dental	Tuesdays - 10 - 12 noon Thursdays - 10 - 12 noon: 2 - 4.30 p.m. (By appointment)

St. Albans - Watford Road,  
Congregational Church Hall.

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Fridays - 2 - 4 p.m. (Dr. attends)
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St. Albans City Hospital, Normandy Road Wing.  
Telephone: 52211.

V.D. (Women)	Tuesdays - 5 - 7 p.m. Fridays 2 - 4 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesdays - 5 - 7 p.m. Fridays 10 - 12 noon
Post-Natal	Wednesdays - 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Mondays - 2 p.m. (St. Albans patients)

Sandridge - Parish Hall.

Infant Weighing	2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.
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Shenley Village Hall.

Infant Welfare

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - 2 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall,  
East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd and 4th Fridays - 2.30 - 4 p.m.  
(Dr. attends 3 p.m)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organizations principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at Boreham Wood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Centre, and Skyswood Health Centre.

### Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick and St. Albans City Hospitals.

#### HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of beds	771 Psychiatric
No. of discharges	1,484

#### Out-Patients

No. of new patients	360
No. of attendances	2,139

#### Day Patients

No. of new patients	63
No. of attendances	7,258

X-ray department	2,951 units
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Physiotherapy department	2,459 attendances
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#### HIGH WICK

#### Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	6

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

Department	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	Out-Patients	
			New	Total Attendances
General Medicine	68	1,068	569	3,767
Paediatrics	39	323	354	1,933
Infectious Diseases	18	113		
Diseases of the Chest	10	43	836	4,698
Dermatology		9	372	1,353
Neurology			96	241
Physical Medicine			379	3,546
V.D.			187	900
Geriatrics	77	132		
General Surgery )		1,885	1,477	4,206
E.N.T. ( T & A ) )		349	) 1,436	) 2,914
E.N.T. (Other) )		178		
Trau. & Orth.Surgery )	102	1,324	1,660	4,913
Ophthalmology )		255	640	2,821
Radiotherapy )			55	172
Thoracic Surgery )			34	104
Dentistry )		19	610	2,385
Neurosurgery			22	38
Gynaecology	25	926	803	3,107
Obstetrics ante-natal)		)	784	6,052
" post-natal)	29	) 944	548	553
Special Care Babies	7	50		
Mental Illness			206	694
Allergy			186	187
Recovery	12			
Private Section 5	4	113		
" " 4	6			
Totals	397	7,731	11,254	44,584
Accident & Emergency			10,423	23,942

Maternity: Live births 769  
Stillbirths 11

X-Ray Dept: 45,739 units  
Physiotherapy Dept: 61,730 attendances

## Section C.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

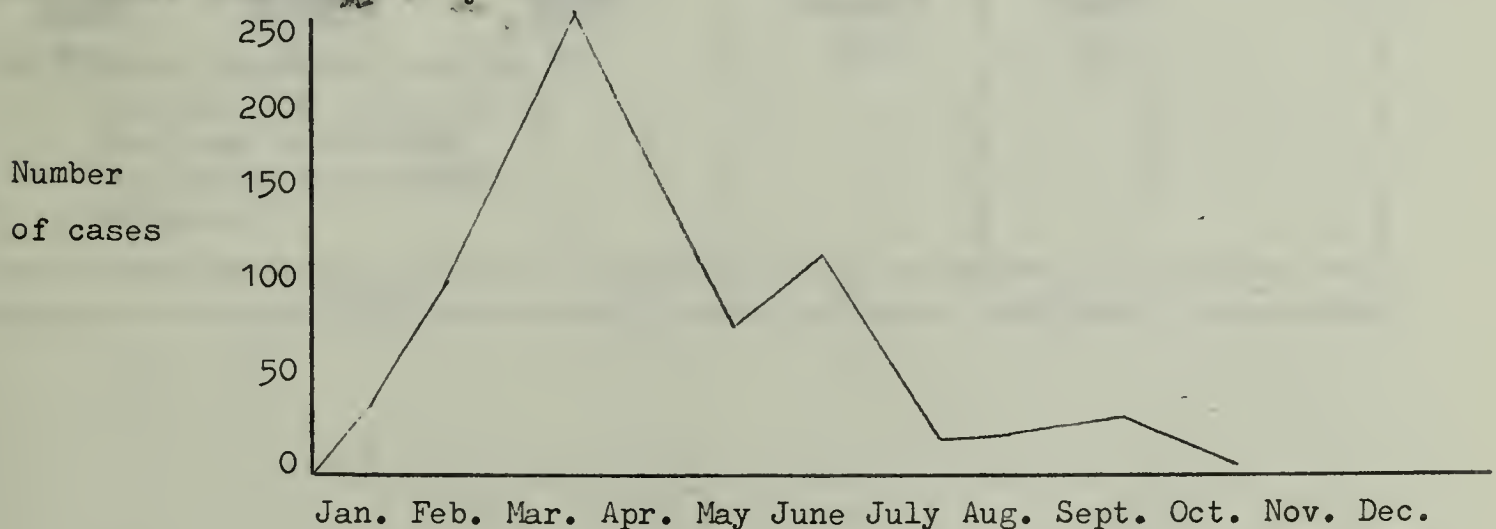
Scarlet Fever	17
Whooping Cough	5
Measles	602
Food Poisoning	1
Infective Hepatitis	6
Dysentery	15
Erysipelas	6
Meningococcal infection	1
Pneumonia	1

#### Influenza

During February and March there were a large number of cases of respiratory infections in the area. Some of these were feverish colds but there were also many cases of influenza as well.

#### Measles

There were 602 cases of measles reported during the year compared with 179 in 1964. As the graph below shows this epidemic lasted during the first five months of the year. Though deaths from measles are very rare in this country, this disease can still be very unpleasant; causing anxiety to parents and a great deal of extra work to the family doctor as each case on average necessitates four visits from the family doctor.



#### Food Poisoning

There was one case of food poisoning notified during the year and inspite of intensive investigation no organism causing this was found.

# TUBERCULOSIS 1965

During 1965, the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Rural District.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	1	-	-	-	1
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
25 - 44 years	2	3	-	-	2	3
45 - 64 years	4	1	-	1	4	2
65 years and over	1	1	-	-	1	1
Total	8	6	-	1	8	7

During the year 19 cases were removed from the register.

The state of the tuberculosis register at the 31st December, 1965 was as follows:-

<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Total</u>
<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
194	132	13	15	354

A P P E N D I X

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in respect of the year 1965  
for the St. Albans Rural  
District Council

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors) :-

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	42	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	5	1	-
Total	95	47	7	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases')

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	6	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

Section 133

No. of Outworkers in  
August list required  
by Section 133(1) (c)

No. of cases of  
default in  
sending lists to  
the Council

No. of prosecutions  
for failure to  
supply lists

Nil

Nil

Nil

Section 134

No. of instances of  
work in unwholesome  
premises

Notices served

Prosecutions'

Nil

Nil

Nil

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlement,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1965.

WATER SUPPLIES

In general, the supplies of water in the area have been satisfactory in quantity and quality. There is no evidence that the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Wherever practicable one sample of water is taken each year from each private well or bore and repeat samples where there are indications that the quality may be in doubt.

In all a total of 165 samples of drinking water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton and the Laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans for bacteriological examination.

All the dwelling houses in the district have a piped water supply with the exception of 146 of which 143 draw from private bores or wells, but the remaining 3 have not, within a reasonable distance, a supply of wholesome water sufficient for the domestic purposes of the occupants. These 146 dwelling houses are located as follows :-

	<u>With Wells or Bores</u>	<u>No Supply</u>
Harpenden Rural	7	-
Redbourn	12	-
Wheathampstead	43	1
Sandridge	44	-
Colney Heath	11	-
London Colney	2	-
St. Stephens	19	-
St. Michaels	5	2
	<hr/> 143	<hr/> 3

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to Mr. H. Wilkinson, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, for the following note on the arrangements for sewerage and for sewage disposal :-

Public foul sewers in the Rural District vary in diameter from six to fifteen inches and have a total length of approximately sixty miles. Regular maintenance and cleansing ensures that blockages are few in number and not of a serious character when they occur. The mobile maintenance gang enables

action to be taken quickly after reports are received.

The public sewer at Tyttenhanger has been extended to serve a hospital annexe and several agricultural properties, thus enabling further cesspools to be abandoned.

Two primary filters at Wheathampstead sewage disposal works were reconstructed during the year.

In co-operation with the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority several new or revised trade waste agreements were completed. The Main Drainage Authority carries out sampling and testing of effluents from business premises in the area draining to the trunk sewers.

#### SANITATION

The number of occupied dwelling houses known to have pailcloset sanitation is 16. All possible measures are being taken to encourage the replacement of these by waterclosets. The dwellings concerned are located as follows :-

Wheathampstead	8
Colney Heath	1
Sandridge	2
St. Stephens	2
Redbourn	1
Harpenden Rural	2

#### SWIMMING BATHS

There is one swimming bath not under the Council's managements which is open to the public, and in respect of which a charge is made for admission. Under an arrangement between the Education Authority and the Proprietors it is used extensively by the schools. There are also two private swimming pools which, by arrangements with the Education Authority, are used by the schools. The system of continuous circulation and purification of the water is operated. Close supervision was exercised throughout the season, and a total of 40 samples of the waters were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton and to the laboratory at Hill End Hospital, St. Albans for bacteriological examination.

A total of 39 samples were taken from other swimming pools in the district.

## HOUSING

1. Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing order.....12
2. Number of demolition or closing orders made:
  - (a) Demolition Orders.....10
  - (b) Closing Orders, whole premises..... 1
  - part premises..... -
3. Number of houses demolished:
  - (a) as a result of demolition orders..... 7
  - (b) in clearance areas..... 3
4. Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants made..... 9
5. Number of Standard Grants made.....28

## IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

In Circular 42/63 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government it was indicated that the Minister wished to see a very big increase in the number of houses being improved. St. Albans Rural District Council decided to make a systematic approach to the problem and to tackle it by visiting all those houses in the district which were built prior to the 1st January 1955 and which were regarded as unlikely to be provided with some or perhaps all of the five standard amenities.

The survey was completed early in 1965 and showed that a total of 567 improvable houses lacked one or more of the five standard amenities.

Compulsory powers to require the improvement of tenanted houses within an area declared by a local authority to be an Improvement Area are given in Part II of the Housing Act, 1964. The Act also enables a local authority to compel an owner to improve a tenanted house outside an improvement area at the request of the tenant. In a Circular on the Housing Act, 1964 issued in September 1964 by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government it was stated that the purpose behind the provisions for the compulsory improvement of dwellings was to secure that within a period of ten years most of the two million or so improvable older houses which lacked amenities and which still have a reasonable life are provided with the five standard amenities. The Circular also states that the introduction of compulsion should not mean the abandonment of voluntary improvement. The validity of this point was recognised by the Council and that a rate of improvement of between fifty and sixty houses per annum should be the aim.

In the light of all the local circumstances it was decided that everything possible should be done to persuade landlords and owner/occupiers of houses qualifying for grant to improve their houses and accordingly a letter was issued to each setting out the reasons for the Council's desire to see a sustained effort to improve those houses which were lacking in amenities but which were regarded as worthy of improvement and encouraging voluntary improvement works. Recognising that in many cases tenants were unwilling to agree to proposed improvements works by the landlord, a suitable letter was sent also to the tenants of all the known improvable houses. It is the belief that in the longer term these efforts will not have been in vain.

### COUNCIL HOUSES

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, are shown in Appendix I.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

#### MEASUREMENT OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There is being operated at Wheathampstead a station for the measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide. A further station, to be sited in the parish of St. Stephens, is proposed.

### NUISANCES.

147 complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken.

### WASPS

The Council undertake the destruction of wasps' nests without charge. In the 1965 season a total of 157 nests were destroyed.

### RODENT CONTROL

Statistics in respect of rodent control work are shown in Appendix II.

### REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUG ACT, 1955.

Eighty-five premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved foods etc., of these 69 are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

From the classified statistical Table in Appendix III it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 230.

### MILK DISTRIBUTORS

Twelve milk distributors are registered under Regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

### MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at three licensed slaughterhouses, and details of the numbers of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and the condemnations are given in Appendix IV. A one hundred per cent inspection of carcasses was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R.E.C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector of the City of St. Albans and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

### FOOD HYGIENE

A three-lecture course of instruction in the clean handling of food leading to the Certificate of St. John Ambulance Association was held during March for persons employed in the food trades. Altogether 143 firms or bodies operating in the St. Albans Rural District were circularised and a total of 127 representatives attended. In all 78 sat for the examination. The lectures were held in the evenings and it is a tribute to the interest and zeal of the persons who attended the course that they gave up their free time to acquire further knowledge in the subject.

A ten-lecture course in Food Hygiene and the handling of food leading up to the examination of the Certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was held during the summer at the St. Albans College of Further Education. Four of the lectures were given by officers of the Public Health Department of the Council. Five persons working in food premises in the St. Albans Rural District attended the Course and four were successful in obtaining the certificate.

One lecture on the subject of meat inspection was given to students of the Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture at Oaklands.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the 31st December 1965 the number of premises registered in the St. Albans Rural District totalled 134 as follows:-

Offices	26
Retail Shops	97
Catering Premises	11

The information available indicates that the persons employed totalled 634, namely 287 males and 347 females, as follows :-

Offices	267
Retail Shops	291
Catering Establishments	76

During the year initial visits were paid to 96 premises and a total of 217 infringements were noted. Some 65 per cent of these were comparatively minor though not by any means unimportant, such as absence of thermometers, insufficient first aid equipment and failure to keep or display for the use of employees an abstract of the Act. The remaining 35 per cent concerned cleanliness, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, accommodation for clothing and matters relating to floors, passages and stairs.

### Lighting.

Section 8 requires that effective provision shall be made for securing and maintaining, in every part of premises to which the Act applies in which persons are working or passing, sufficient and suitable lighting, whether natural or artificial, and, further, that the Minister may, by regulations, prescribe a standard of lighting conformity to which shall be obligatory.

The Ministry of Labour indicated that the question of making regulations is being deferred until further information is available about the experience of enforcing authorities in requiring "suitable and sufficient" standards of lighting under the Act and asked local authorities for reports in relation to the last three months of 1965. In that period 27 premises with a total of 56 rooms were visited and, in applying "suitable and sufficient", regard was had to the illumination levels in the code operated by the Illuminating Engineering Society embodying the recommended minimum illumination levels necessary to provide a reasonable satisfactory environment for a variety of conditions. Some of the Society's recommended illumination levels are as follows:-

(See over)

	<u>Lumens per sq. ft.</u>
Conference rooms, executive offices	30
General Offices	30
Business machine operation	45
Corridors and lifts	7
Stairs	10
Kitchens	20
Canteens	15
Cloakrooms and toilets	10

Taking these illumination standards as a guide it was found that a total of 18 rooms and stairs fell below a reasonable standard. Details are given in the following table:

<u>LIGHTING VALUES (Lumens/sq. ft.)</u>				
<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>-5</u>	<u>6-10</u>	<u>11-15</u>	<u>16-20</u>
<u>SHOPS</u>				
Sales areas	-	-	2	1
Preparation Rooms	-	1	1	-
Stock Rooms	-	3	3	-
Staircases	1	-	-	-
Cellars	-	1	-	-
<u>CATERING</u>				
Servery	-	-	1	-
<u>OFFICES</u>				
Working Areas	-	-	1	2
Stairs	1	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

#### Washing Facilities

Section 10 requires that there shall be provided, at places conveniently accessible, suitable and sufficient washing facilities including a supply of clean running hot and cold or warm water and in addition soap and clean towels or other suitable means of cleaning and drying. There were 17 premises which did not fully satisfy these requirements and of these 14 lacked a supply of running hot water.

### Sitting Facilities

Section 13 requires that where employed persons have, in the course of their work, reasonable opportunities for sitting without detriment to it there shall be provided for their use suitable facilities for sitting to enable them to take advantage of these opportunities. It was surprising to find that in the case of five shops this very necessary facility was absent.

As the initial inspections have been almost completed the second round of visits has been undertaken and it is gratifying to note that, in general occupiers of premises are recognising their responsibilities under the Act.

STATISTICAL TABLE

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered During the Year	Total number of registered Premises at End of Year.	Number of registered Premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	4	26	16
Retail Shops	31	97	72
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses.	-	-	-
Caterin Establishments open to the public, Canteens.	2	11	8
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	37	134	96

INFRINGEMENTS FOUND AT INITIAL VISITS

Sections	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16	17	24	50
Offices	-	10	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	1	1	1	10	7
Retails Shops	2	30	6	7	3	19	1	7	10	5	6	1	43	31
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catering Establish- ments open to the public, Canteens	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	5	5
TOTALS	2	40	6	10	5	24	1	7	10	6	11	3	58	43

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Number of Properties for letting under the control of the Council at 31st December, 1965				Analysis showing housing progress from January 1st to December 31st, 1965.			
PARISH	Pre-war houses	Post-war houses	Acquired properties	TOTAL	New houses completed in 1965	No. of properties vacated in 1965 other than by transfer	No. of families re-housed in 1965
London Colney	100	572	2	674	-	25	26
Redbourn	128	286	9	423	-	11	20
St. Stephens	34	198	2	234	-	12	16
Colney Heath	108	149	12	269	3	9	22
Sandridge	57	158	4	219	28	3	9
Wheathampstead	90	209	7	306	4	17	16
St. Michaels	16	-	-	16	-	-	5
Harpenden U.D.C.	-	14	-	14	-	-	-
Harpenden Rural	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City Area	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
TOTALS	533	1,586	39*	2,158	35	77	114 †

\* Does NOT include Bennick House and 100 Hatfield Road.

† Includes letting of 4 houses vacant at 31.12.64.

C.I. SHARPE,  
Housing Officer.

RODENT CONTROLYear Ended 31st December, 1965.

	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (2)	Agricul- tural (3)	All other (inc.business premises) (4)	Total (5)
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	10,952	204	398	11,559
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the year ended 31st December, 1965, as a result of -					
(a) Notifications	-	463	21	4	488
(b) Survey under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	2	42	145	5	194
(c) Otherwise, e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	-	100	-	200	300
3. Number of properties (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by rats	2	451	39	5	497
4. Number of properties inspected (see Section 2) which were found to be infested by mice	-	29	-	-	29
5. Number of infested properties (see Sections 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	2	480	21	-	503

## SUMMARY OF FOOD PREMISES WITHIN THE DISTRICT AT 31st DECEMBER, 1965.

Type of Food Premises	London Colney	Colney Heath	St. Stephens	Wheat-hampstead	Red-bourn	Sandridge	St. Michaels	Harpenden Rur.	Total
1. Grocery & Provision Store	11	6	13	5	10	3	-	1	49
2. Grocery, Provisions & Butchers	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
3. Butchers	3	1	5	-	3	-	-	-	12
4. Baker's Shops	2	-	4	2	1	-	-	-	9
5. Bakeries	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	4
6. Sweets & Confectionery	3	-	5	3	3	-	-	-	14
7. Greengrocery & Fruiterers	3	2	6	3	3	2	-	-	19
8. Wet and Fried Fish	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
9. Cafes, including Clubs and Licensed Restaurants	4	-	4	1	2	1	3	-	15
10. Factory Canteens	2	6	2	3	2	3	-	-	18
11. Schools and Institutions	4	3	5	2	5	6	-	-	25
12. Hospitals and Nursing Homes	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
13. Food Factory	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
14. Licensed Houses	8	10	10	11	10	5	1	1	56
TOTALS	44	29	59	32	40	20	4	2	230

## ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## APPENDIX IV

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1965

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	1,728	255	348	2,911	5,623	55
Number Inspected	1,728	255	238	2,911	5,623	55
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	-	-	2	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	165	63	6	47	298	24
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	35	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



